

House Resolution 124 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY WESSEL-KROESCHELL, D. OLSON, DEYOE, and HEDDENS

1 A Resolution congratulating the Iowa State University
2 football team for its victory at the Insight Bowl.

3 WHEREAS, In 2009, the Iowa State football team, the
4 Cyclones, was in its first season under head coach Paul
5 Rhoads, an Iowa native; and

6 WHEREAS, Coach Rhoads told the members of his team
7 before the season that they would win a bowl game; and

8 WHEREAS, the Iowa State Cyclones posted their first
9 winning season since 2005; and

10 WHEREAS, the Cyclones were invited to play in their
11 first bowl game since 2005, appearing in the Insight
12 Bowl in Tempe, Arizona; and

13 WHEREAS, the Cyclones beat the Minnesota Golden
14 Gophers of the Big Ten, 14-13, on December 31 in the
15 Insight Bowl; and

16 WHEREAS, the Big 12 media picked the Cyclones
17 to finish last in the North Division before the
18 season; and

19 WHEREAS, the Cyclones beat the Nebraska Cornhuskers,
20 9-7 for its first win in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 32
21 years; and

22 WHEREAS, the team was led by captains Reggie
23 Stephens, Austen Arnaud, James Smith, Derec Schmidgall,
24 and Nate Frere; and

25 WHEREAS, middle linebacker Jesse Smith was the
26 national defensive player of the week after the
27 Nebraska win, making 12 tackles and the game-clinching
28 interception against the Cornhuskers, finishing his

1 career with 305 tackles after leading the Big 12 with
2 135 stops in 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, video of Coach Rhoads' postgame speech with
4 his team after the Nebraska win has been viewed nearly
5 250,000 times on YouTube; and

6 WHEREAS, Coach Rhoads coached the Cyclones to seven
7 wins in his first season, the most victories by a
8 first-year head coach since 1907; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Rhoads is the first head football
10 coach to lead the Cyclones to a winning season in his
11 first year since 1931; and

12 WHEREAS, the Cyclones beat Kent State for its first
13 road victory since 2005, with the win at Nebraska being
14 its first road conference win since 2005; and

15 WHEREAS, the Cyclones held three conference
16 opponents to 10 points or less for the first time since
17 1965; and

18 WHEREAS, the Cyclones were one of the most improved
19 teams nationally among NCAA Bowl Championship Series
20 schools; and

21 WHEREAS, the Cyclones were 68th nationally in the
22 red zone in 2008, and in 2009, ranked second-best
23 among 120 football bowl subdivision teams in that
24 category; and

25 WHEREAS, the Cyclone defenders were ninth nationally
26 in forced turnovers; and

27 WHEREAS, the defense's anchor, linebacker Jesse
28 Smith, earned first-team all-conference honors, strong
29 safety David Sims was named by the league's coaches as
30 the Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year, and punter

1 Mike Brandtner and running back Alexander Robinson
2 earned honorable mention all-Big 12 honors; and

3 WHEREAS, the Cyclone punt return defense ranked
4 fourth nationally; and

5 WHEREAS, running back Alexander Robinson became the
6 Cyclone's first 1,000-yard rusher since 2004; and

7 WHEREAS, quarterback Austen Arnaud drove the
8 Cyclones to success despite injuries that forced him
9 and Alexander Robinson to miss parts of several games
10 this season, while offensive lineman Reggie Stephens,
11 first-team all-conference honoree, led a rejuvenated
12 front in the trenches, and offensive lineman Kelechi
13 Osemele was a second-team all-conference selection; NOW
14 THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
16 That the House of Representatives honors the 2009 Iowa
17 State University football team and their coach, Paul
18 Rhoads, for their dedication to excellence, for their
19 strength of spirit, and for their unwavering effort,
20 which culminated with a win at the Insight Bowl.